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# DESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

## Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1951

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# Urban District of Desborough

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## **Members of the Public Health Committee**

1951 - 52.

Councillor F. A. Dimbleby (*Chairman*).

Councillors Mrs. N. C. Burditt, Mrs. A. B. Lock,  
J. Gould, G. H. Houghton, A. H. Noon and H. W. Tailby.

## **Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :**

### **Medical Officer of Health :**

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of Burton Latimer, Corby, Rothwell and the Rural District of Kettering, Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northampton County Council.

### **Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :**

ARTHUR HARRIS, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.I.

Public Health Department,  
75 London Road,  
KETTERING.

July, 1952.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Desborough Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1951.

The health of the district can be judged by the statistics available—that is the death-rate, infantile mortality rate and incidence of infectious disease and information from these figures would indicate that this was satisfactory. Your Medical Officer has little knowledge of the amount of non-notifiable illness present in the district throughout the year as this figure is not available—this morbidity rate for non-notifiable disease would present a clearer conception of the health of the people.

It is worthy of note that no cases of acute primary or influenzal pneumonia have been notified in the Urban District since 1939.

In 1939 two cases of diphtheria were notified, one case in 1943 and one in 1946. None of these persons had received prophylactic inoculation. This fall in the incidence of diphtheria has been noted throughout the country ; whereas in 1944 23,199 corrected notifications of diphtheria were received with 934 deaths, in 1951 669 cases were notified with 34 deaths. The results have been solely due to immunisation against diphtheria and not due to elimination of diphtheria in the community and it is essential that a high level of immunisation at least up to 75% is maintained.

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their keenness and support and also for the help and co-operation of the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years  
1947, 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Area (acres) ... ... ... ... ...	2400	2400	2400	2400	2400
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) ... .....	4494	4621	4645	4644	4690
Number of Live Births ... ... ...	97	66	62	68	58
Legitimate ... ... ... ...	94	65	61	66	56
Illegitimate ... ... ... ...	3	1	1	2	2
Birth-rate per 1,000 population ... ...	58	14.28	13.34	14.64	12.36
Number of Still Births ... ... ...	1	2	2	2	3
Legitimate ... ... ... ...	1	2	2	2	3
Illegitimate ... ... ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births ... ... ... ...	10.20	29.41	31.25	28.57	49.18
Rate per 1,000 population ... ...	0.22	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.64
Number of Deaths ... ... ... ...	50	47	57	43	65
Death rate per 1,000 population for 1950 (corrected) ... ... ...	11.12	10.17	12.27	9.25	13.86
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ... ... ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ... ... ...	10.30	45.45	nil	29.41	34.48
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ... ... ...	—	—	—	29.41	17.24
*Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	3	2	3	—	1
*Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms ...	10	11	8	5	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	1	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ... ... ...	—	—	1	—	—

\*Registrar-General's Figures.

## BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1951

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes		Tyr- phoid Fever		Diph- theria		Influ- enza		Small-Pox		Pneumonia	
			Polio- myelitis and Poli- oencephalitis	Tuber- culosis	Tub- erculosis	Cullosis	Influe- za	Small-Pox	Pneumonia	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years			Total Deaths under 1 year	
England and Wales ...	15.5	0.36	12.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.31	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.61	1.4	29.6	
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.3	0.45	13.4	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.37	0.36	0.00	0.01	0.65	1.6	33.9	
148 Smaller Towns estd. resident popu- lations, 25,000 — 50,000 ... ...	16.7	0.38	12.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.31	0.38	0.00	0.01	0.63	1.0	27.6	
London ... ...	17.8	0.37	13.1	—	0.01	0.00	0.38	0.23	—	0.00	0.61	0.7	26.4	
Desborough Urban District ...	12.36	0.64	12.34	—	—	0.00	0.21	1.05	—	—	0.63	—	34.48	
The Maternal Mortality rates for :			Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	Abortion with toxaemia	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	Haemorrhage out mention of sepsis or toxaemia	Abortion with sepsis	Other complications of pregnancy and the puerperium	Abortion with sepsis	0.05	0.09	0.18	Other complica- tions of preg- nancy, child- birth and the puerperium	
England and Wales per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births			0.10	0.00	0.24	0.13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Desborough Urban District ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

## SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres) ... ... ... ... ... ...	2,400
Registrar-General's estimated or resident population	4,690
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1951	1,563
Rateable Value ... ... ... ... ...	£23,438
Sum represented by Penny Rate ... ... ...	£90

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—

Boot and Shoe manufacture, corset manufacture, manufacture of cardboard boxes and rigid containers, ironstone quarrying, farming.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ... ... ...	56	29	27
Illegitimate ... ... ...	2	—	2
TOTALS ...	58	29	29

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... 12.36

STILL BIRTHS	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ... ... ...	2	1	1
Illegitimate ... ... ...	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	2	1	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 28.57

DEATHS	Total	Males	Females
	65	33	32

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.86

Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ... ... —

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ... ... 34.48

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 35.71

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births —

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... ... ... —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ... ... —

Deaths from enteritis and diarrhoea (under two years of age) —

Deaths from malignant neoplasms ... ... ... ... 13

Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ... —

**Deaths.**—Comparability factor for 1951 was 0.89. The crude death-rate per 1,000 population for 1951 was 13.86 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.89 supplied by the Registrar-General gives a corrected death rate of 12.34. This death rate of 12.34 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Desborough Urban District were distributed in the same proportions as that of England and Wales as a whole.

## LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1951

A comparability factor has been issued for 1951 by the Registrar-General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Desborough and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Desborough	...	...	...	...	12.36
Desborough corrected by comparability factor 1.0	...	...	...	...	12.36
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.5

## INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES 1951

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding and child welfare.

Desborough	...	...	...	...	34.48
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	29.6

The causes of deaths in children under one year of age with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of death</i>
7 days	F.	Hydrocephalus.
7 months	M.	Heart failure, Broncho-pneumonia. Diarrhoea.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	...	...	...	65
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	...	2	—	2
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	...	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	...	—	1	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	—	4	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	3	4	7

Registered causes of death— <i>continued.</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	4	2	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease ...	6	6	12
21. Other circulatory disease ...	2	3	5
22. Influenza ...	3	2	5
23. Pneumonia ...	2	1	3
24. Bronchitis ...	—	1	1
25. Other disease of the respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer and stomach duodenum ...	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	—	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	1	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	1	1
34. All other accidents ...	1	—	1
35. Suicide ...	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—

## SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—There were no bacteriological examinations carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton or at the Kettering General Hospital during the year 1951.

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—The County Council became responsible for ambulances from 5th July, 1948. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—From 5th July, 1948 the County Council became responsible for the Home Nursing Service, details of the work carried out during 1951 were not made available to the Local Authority.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice a month. A Medical Officer attends one session a month.

The treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is carried out by the Regional Hospital Board.

**DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.**—The number of children who were immunised in 1951 is as follows :—

Under 5 years of age	...	...	...	39
5 to 14 years of age	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	40
Boosters	...	...	...	21

The number of children who have had a full course of immunisation—

Age at 31.12.51.	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in year	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Number immunised	1	49	49	44	44
Age at 31.12.51.	5 - 9	10 - 14		Total	
i.e. Born in year	1942 - 1946	1937 - 1941		Under 15	
Number immunised	187	210		584	
Estimated mid-year population of children ages 0 - 4 yrs.				377	
Estimated mid-year population of children aged 5 - 14 yrs.				586	

**National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47.**—No formal action was taken during the year.

### VACCINATION

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year :—

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Primary ...	... 11	—	—	—	11
Re-vaccination ...	—	—	—	—	—

## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Inspection of Food.

Report by A. HARRIS, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.SAN.I.

**Water Supply.**—The Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board has maintained a good supply of water both in quantity and quality throughout the year.

Two bacteriological examinations of the supply were made and results were very satisfactory. The water is very hard and has no plumbo-solvent action. No chemical examination of the water was made by the Council.

The whole of the population is served by the public piped supply, with the exception of four farms which are a long distance from the service mains. One farm has been connected to the supply by the Water Board during the year. About one-eighth of the houses and population, mostly in the old portion of the town, is served by stand-pipes in the yard or at the rear of houses. During the year eight houses had a supply taken inside instead of being served by the outside arrangements. The water service to the other houses is direct.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal have been undertaken during the year.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been well maintained and are dealing efficiently with the daily flow. One sludge drying bed has been reconstructed and the soak away drains renewed.

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**—During the year 234 inspections were made. 61 nuisances were abated by serving informal notices. No statutory notices were found necessary. The nuisances referred mainly to minor housing structural defects and drainage.

**Rats and Mice Destruction Act.**—The House Refuse Tip and the Sewage Disposal Works have been treated at intervals during the year. Both sites are being kept free from vermin.

No nuisance has been noted in the sewers. No infestations have been reported.

**Housing.**—31 houses were completed during the year by the Council. The total number of post war houses completed by the Local Authority all by local labour at the end of the year was 120. Three houses were completed during 1951 by private enterprise.

The Council had 34 houses and private enterprise had 4 houses in course of construction at the end of the year.

**Factories Act, 1937.**—26 inspections of factories were made and no nuisances were noted. Improvements and decoration have been carried out to one factory.

The three canteens provided at the factories have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

The number of outworkers in August 1951 was 142.

#### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

**Meat and other Foods.**—There are no Government Slaughterhouses being operated within the Urban District. Slaughtering of animals is confined to the Ministry of Food Self-Suppliers of Pigs Scheme. 25 notices were received giving notice of slaughter. All slaughtering was carried out at registered slaughterhouses. Twelve carcases were inspected and no disease was noted.

**Food Condemned.**—18½ lbs. of tinned ham ; 2 lbs. of Salling cheese.

**Fish Frying.**—The three Fish Frying establishments were kept in a clean condition throughout the year.

**Bakehouses.**—There is only one bakehouse in the town. It is of modern design with glazed brick walls etc. It has been kept in a clean condition. Up-to-date sanitary accommodation is provided together with a constant supply of hot and cold water.

**Ice Cream.**—There are no licensed manufacturers of ice cream in the urban area. The number of registrations for the sale of ice Cream is eight.

**Clean Food Campaign.**—Notices were distributed to all Food Shops requesting in the interests of hygiene, not to bring dogs into the premises. These notices are being well displayed and are serving their purpose.

## Infectious Diseases.

There were 162 cases notified during the year of which 157 were due to Measles, occurring mainly in February and March. Only two cases of whooping cough were notified. The degree of infectivity of these diseases can be judged by the fact that a neighbouring urban district had a measles outbreak of the same proportion as Desborough but had 20 times more cases of whooping cough.

A girl aged seven years was notified in April as suffering from Anterior Poliomyelitis—this child was not removed to hospital and fully recovered.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1951.

Public Health Act, 1925 Section 62 and Public Health Act, 1936 Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

There were three cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year. The two male cases were found during the mass radiography survey and the non-respiratory was a transfer from another district. One male patient died during the year from respiratory tuberculosis.

The number of cases in the register at the end of 1951 was 33, of which 25 were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

19th — 29th November, 1951

This was the third survey undertaken by the Mass Radiography Unit.

- A. Type of Survey—Firms, Schools and General Public.
- B. Percentage Response—Firms 80%, Schools 100%.

### Summary of Findings of Newly Discovered Cases of Significant Tuberculosis in the Desborough Survey.

Group	No. X-Rayed	No. of Newly Discovered Significant Cases of Tuberculosis			Rate per Thousand
		Active	Inactive	Rate per Thousand	
Firms ... ... ...	1,507	2	3	.13	
General Public ...	499	—	1	.20	
Schools ... ...	48	—	—	.00	
Boot & Shoe (included above)	599	2	1	.33	
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>2,054</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>.97</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.95</b>

**MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1951**

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Measles	...	...	—	80	67	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	157
TOTALS	...	—	80	67	12	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	162

**AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1951**

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	All Ages over	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Measles	...	2	12	9	27	28	76	3	—	—	—	—	157	—	—
TOTALS	2	13	9	28	29	78	3	—	—	—	—	—	162	—	—

### NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1951

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	1	1	—	—
35—	—	—	—	1
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>

### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1951

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>



